

We claim:

1. An interactive toy for use in learning about chronic illnesses comprising: a doll having an inner and outer surface, an internal proximity switch; one or more internal electrical wires connecting said internal proximity switch to an internal microprocessor; and an audio speaker connected to said internal microprocessor, wherein upon activation of the microprocessor, said doll produces a programmed response.
2. The toy of claim 1, wherein said programmed response is representative of a chronic illness.
3. The toy of claim 2, wherein said chronic illness is selected from the group consisting of: asthma, allergies, cystic fibrosis, and diabetes.
4. The toy of claim 1, wherein said programmed response is selected from the group consisting of: coughing sounds, wheezing sounds, speech, heart sounds, bowel sounds, breathing, lung sounds, audible sound, heat emission, light emission, and motion.
5. The toy of claim 1, further comprising pseudo-medical equipment having an activator which closes said internal proximity switch when brought into proximity with the doll, thereby completing an internal electrical circuit between said internal proximity switch and said internal microprocessor.
6. The toy of claim 5, wherein said activator comprises a magnet.
7. The toy of claim 5, wherein said pseudo-medical equipment is selected from the group consisting of: a medicine dropper bottle, a nose sprayer, a

syringe, a simulated patient chart, a stethoscope, a peak flow meter, an inhaler, a nebulizer, a glucose meter, a lancet, a insulin syringe, a blood pressure cuff, feeding and intravenous lines, a medicine bottle, a nose sprayer, a medical bracelet, an eye dropper, and a cystic fibrosis vest.

8. The toy of claim 1, further comprising a book containing text, wherein the text of said book is programmed into said microprocessor such that upon activation of said microprocessor, said doll produces audible sound corresponding to the text of said book.

9. An interactive toy for use in learning about chronic illnesses comprising: a doll having an inner and outer surface, an internal radio receiver, one or more internal electrical wires connecting said internal radio receiver to an internal microprocessor; and an audio speaker connected to said internal microprocessor, such that upon receipt of a radio signal by said internal radio receiver, said signal is processed by said microprocessor to generate a programmed response.

10. The toy of claim 9, wherein said programmed response is representative of a chronic illness.

11. The toy of claim 10, wherein said chronic illness is selected from the group consisting of: asthma, allergies, cystic fibrosis, and diabetes.

12. The toy of claim 9 wherein said programmed response is selected from the group consisting of: coughing sounds, wheezing sounds, speech, heart sounds, bowel sounds, breathing, and lung sounds, audible sound, heat emission, light emission, and motion.

13. The toy of claim 9 further comprising pseudo-medical equipment having means for emitting radio signals, whereby said radio receiver scans for said signals, receives said signals, and activates said microprocessor to generate a programmed response.

14. The toy of claim 13, wherein each unique item of said pseudo-medical equipment emits a unique radio signal such that, upon receipt of said signal by said internal radio receiver, said unique item is individually recognized by said internal microprocessor to generate a unique programmed response.

15. The toy of claim 13, wherein said pseudo-medical equipment is selected from the group consisting of: a medicine dropper bottle, a nose sprayer, a syringe, a simulated patient chart, a stethoscope, a peak flow meter, an inhaler, a nebulizer, a glucose meter, a lancet, a insulin syringe, a blood pressure cuff, feeding and intravenous lines, a medicine bottle, a nose sprayer, a medical bracelet, a story book, an eye dropper, and a cystic fibrosis vest.

16. The toy of claim 9, wherein said doll further comprises an internal proximity switch which correlates to an activator located within said item of pseudo-medical equipment, such that bringing said activator into proximity with said internal proximity switch closes said internal proximity switch, thereby completing an internal electrical circuit between said internal proximity switch and said internal microprocessor.

17. A kit for educating a user about chronic illness and treatment and management of an illness, comprising

(a) a doll having an inner and outer surface, an internal proximity switch; one or more internal electrical wires connecting said internal proximity

switch to an internal microprocessor; and an audio speaker connected to said internal microprocessor, wherein upon activation of said microprocessor, said doll produces a programmed response;

(b) pseudo-medical equipment; and

(c) a knapsack for storing and carrying said doll and said pseudo-medical equipment.

18. The kit of claim 17, wherein said pseudo-medical equipment comprises an activator which closes said internal proximity switch when brought into proximity of the doll thereby completing an internal electrical circuit between said internal proximity switch and said internal microprocessor.

19. The kit of claim 17, wherein said pseudo-medical equipment is selected from the group consisting of a medicine dropper bottle, a nose sprayer, a syringe, a simulated patient chart, a stethoscope, a peak flow meter, an inhaler, a nebulizer, a glucose meter, a lancet, a insulin syringe, a blood pressure cuff, feeding and intravenous lines, a medicine bottle, a nose sprayer, a medical bracelet, a story book, an eye dropper, and a cystic fibrosis vest.

20. The kit of claim 17, further comprising a book, wherein the text of said book are programmed into said doll, and wherein upon activation of said doll, said doll produces audible sound corresponding to the text of said book.